

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method to silence a gene of a plant sap-sucking insect, comprising applying to the feed of said plant sap-sucking insect dsRNA or siRNA without a transfection promoting agent, wherein said dsRNA or siRNA is targeted to an essential gene of a plant sap-sucking ~~insect~~ gene, wherein said essential plant sap-sucking gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 85% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID No. 5.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 10, wherein said essential ~~of said plant sap-sucking insect is selected from the group consisting of genes encoding the following: a gut cell protein, a membrane protein, an ecdyson receptor, a γ ATPase, an amino acid transporter, a transcription factor, a peptidylglycine alpha-amidating monooxygenase; a cysteine protease, an aminopeptidase, a dipeptidase, a sucrase/ transglucosidase, a translation elongation factor, an eucaryotic translation initiation factor 1A, a splicing factor, an apoptosis inhibitor; a tubulin protein, an actin protein, an alpha-actinin protein, a histone, a histone deacetylase, a cell cycle regulatory protein, a cellular respiratory protein; a receptor for an insect specific hormonal signal, a juvenile hormone receptor, an insect peptidic hormone receptor; a protein regulating ion balance in a cell, a proton pump, a Na/K pump, an intestinal~~

~~protease; an enzyme involved in sucrose metabolism, a digestive enzyme, a trypsin like protease and a cathepsin B like protease~~ gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 90% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID No. 5.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method to silence an essential [[a]] gene in [[an]] a plant sap-sucking insect, comprising: adding dsRNA or siRNA without a transfection-promoting agent to the diet or feed of said plant sap-sucking insect, wherein said dsRNA or siRNA targets said essential gene, wherein said essential gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 85% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID No. 5.

Claims 14-29 (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[10]] 13, wherein said essential plant sap-sucking gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising ~~with~~ a DNA sequence having higher than 90%~~85%~~ sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID NO: 5.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, 35 or 13 wherein said essential plant sap-sucking gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor with a DNA sequence having higher than 95 % sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID NO: 5.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, 35 or 13, wherein said ~~essential~~ ~~plant sap-sucking~~ gene is the gene corresponding to the DNA of SEQ ID NO: 5.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein only that portion from nucleotide position 72 to the end in SEQ ID NO:5 is used as gene target in designing the dsRNA molecule.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling sap-sucking insects, comprising feeding said insects dsRNA or siRNA without a transfection promoting agent, wherein said dsRNA or siRNA is targeted to an essential gene of said plant sap-sucking insects, wherein said essential gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 85% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID No. 5.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of any one of claims 10, 13 or 35, wherein the sequence of said dsRNA or siRNA is a sequence that targets an essential gene ~~sequences~~ sequence or a portion thereof that is present identically or with a sequence identity of higher than 95 % in a plurality of plant sap-sucking ~~insects~~ insect species of a plant host ~~and wherein said essential gene sequences have a sequence identity of higher than 95 %, wherein said~~ essential plant sap-sucking gene is a gene encoding a translation initiation factor comprising a DNA sequence having higher than 85% sequence identity to the DNA of SEQ ID No. 5.